

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS STATE 108709

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EI

SUBJECT: REFERENCE TO IRA IN DEPT. BULLETIN

REF: DUBLIN 809

1. PRESS QUERY DESCRIBED REFTEL UNDOUBTEDLY PROMOTED BY ADVERTISEMENT CARRIED FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS IN NEW YORK PRO-IRA NEWSPAPER, "IRISH PEOPLE," FOR NORAIID PUBLICATION, "FOCUS: THE IRISH QUESTION." AD STATES, IN PART, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY ARE FREEDOM FIGHTERS (DEPARTMENT OF STATE BULLETIN, 4TH DECEMBER 1972, PAGE 651)." THIS QUOTE, TYPICAL OF IRA DISTORTIONS OF TRUTH FOR ITS OWN ENDS, DOES NOT STAND-UP UNDER EVEN MOST CURSORY EXAMINATION.

2. BULLETIN ARTICLE IN QUESTION IS ADDRESS BY THE LEGAL ADVISOR, JOHN R. STEVENSON, TO ASSOCIATION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BAR OF NEW YORK CITY ON NOVEMBER 9, 1972, AND IS ENTITLED. "INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE EXPORT OF TERRORISM." STEVENSON, IN SPEAKING OF A DRAFT CONVENTION ON INTER-

NATIONAL TERRORISM TO SUPPLEMENT THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

SAID, INTER ALIA, "... THE CONVENTION WOULD NOT DEAL WITH

INTERNAL CONFLICTS WITHIN A STATE UNLESS SUCH CONFLICTS WERE EXPORTED TO THE TERRITORY OF THIRD STATES OR DIRECTED AGAINST THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS. THUS, THE CONVENTION WOULD NEITHER COVER THE ACT OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER IN RHODESIA OR ANGOLA WHO ATTACKS A GOVERNMENT SOLDIER NOR AN ATTACK BY A MEMBER OF THE IRA AGAINST A BRITISH SOLDIER IN NORTHERN IRELAND."

3. STEVENSON OBVIOUSLY DID NOT REFER TO IRA AS "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" AND DISTORTION OF HIS STATEMENT IS PARTICULARLY IRONIC AFTER TERRORIST ATTACKS ON INNOCENT

THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS IN 1974 BOMBING OF TOWER OF LONDON. KISSINGER

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